

Character: Honoring God As Your Provider

*"Elijah: Taking A Stand", Part 1 of 4
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"Now Elijah the Tishbite, from Tishbe in Gilead, said to Ahab, 'As the Lord, the God of Israel, lives whom I serve, there will be neither dew nor rain in the next few years except at my word.'" (1 Kings 17:1, NIV)

Three Ways To Honor God As Your Ultimate Provider

I) OBEY GOD, EVEN WHEN IT SEEMS INCONVENIENT

"Then the word of the Lord came to Elijah: 'Leave here turn eastward and hide in the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan. You will drink from the brook, and I have ordered the ravens to feed you there.'" (1 Kings 17:2-4, NIV)

1) Our response: FAITHFUL FOLLOWING of God's word.

"So he did what the Lord had told him. He went to the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan, and stayed there." (1 Kings 17:5, NIV)

2) God's provision: "RAVINE CUISINE".

"The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning and bread and meat in the evening, and he drank from the brook." (1 Kings 17:6, NIV)

II) DEPEND ON GOD, EVEN WHEN IT SEEMS UNUSUAL

"Some time later the brook dried up because there had been no rain in the land. Then the word of the Lord came to him: 'Go at once to Zarephath of Sidon and stay there. I have commanded a widow in that place to supply you with food.'" (1 Kings 17:7-9, NIV)

1) Our response: FEARLESS FAITH in God's command.

"So he went to Zarephath... a widow was there gathering sticks... 'Would you bring me a little water in a jar so I may have a drink?...And bring me, please, a piece of bread.' 'As surely as the Lord your God lives... I don't have any bread— only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug. I am gathering a few sticks to take home and make a meal for myself and my son, that we may eat it—and die.' Elijah said to her, 'Don't be afraid. Go home and do as you have said. But first make a small cake of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me, and then make something for yourself and your son. For this is what the Lord, the God of Israel says, 'The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry, in keeping with the word of the Lord spoken by Elijah.' She went away and did as Elijah had told her." (1 Kings 17:10-15a, NIV)

2) God's provision: "WONDER BREAD".

"So there was food every day for Elijah and for the woman and her family. For the jar of flour was not used up and the jug of oil did not run dry, in keeping with the word of the Lord spoken by Elijah." (1 Kings 17:15b-16, NIV)

III) YIELD TO GOD, EVEN WHEN IT SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE

1) Our response: FULL SURRENDER to God in prayer.

"Some time later the son of the woman who owned the house became ill. He grew worse and worse, and finally he stopped breathing. She said to Elijah, 'What do you have against me, man of God? Did you come to remind me of my sin and kill my son?' 'Give me your son,' Elijah replied. He took him from her arms, carried him to the upper room where he was staying, and laid him on his bed. Then he cried out to the Lord, 'O Lord my God, have you brought tragedy also upon this widow I am staying with, by causing her son to die?' Then he stretched himself out on the boy three times and cried out to the Lord, 'O Lord my God, let this boy's life return to him.'" (1 Kings 17:17-21, NIV)

2) God's provision: CPR: "CHRIST-PROVIDED RESUSCITATION".

"The Lord heard Elijah's cry, and the boy's life returned to him, and he lived.... He gave him to his mother and said, 'Look, your son is alive!'" (1 Kings 17:22-23, NIV)

***When we honor God as our provider, God gets the GLORY, we get the BLESSING, others get to KNOW HIM BETTER.**

"Then the woman said to Elijah, 'Now I know that you are a man of God and that the word of the Lord from your mouth is the truth.'" (1 Kings 17:24, NIV)